

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-03 MMO-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00
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COMSIXTHFLT

S E C R E T STATE 055064

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR, US, FR, MN

SUBJECT:NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP (NPW) VISITS TO MONACO

REF: PARIS 06353 (DTG 231639Z FEB 78)

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES YOUR FURTHER ANALYSIS OF NPW
VISIT PROSPECTS FOR FRANCE AND CONCURS WITH YOUR ASSESSMENT.
WE WONDER, HOWEVER, WHETHER THESE CONSIDERATIONS WOULD ALSO
APPLY TO VISITS TO MONACO.

2. AS YOU KNOW, THE PROBLEM OF OBTAINING SUITABLE PORTS IN
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THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN FOR VISITS BY THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER
NIMITZ IS ACUTE. FURTHER, IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT MUCH
PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IN FRANCE OR SPAIN OVER NEXT SEVERAL
MONTHS TO GAIN APPROVAL OF NUCLEAR POWERED SHIP VISITS.
THEREFORE WE ARE EXPLORING ALL POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES THAT
MIGHT HELP ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM. IN THAT CONTEXT, NAVY
HAS EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR NIMITZ TO VISIT MONACO AT END OF

FIRST WEEK IN APRIL.

3. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO CREATE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN FRANCE AND MONEGASQUE AUTHORITIES OR PREJUDICE FURTHER EFFORTS TO OPEN FRENCH PORTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS POSSIBLE NEITHER THE MONEGASQUE OR THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE

PROBLEM RAISED IN PARIS AS APPLICABLE IN MONACO. IN THAT THE CURRENT IMPASSE IN PARIS OSTENSIBLY CENTERS AROUND APPLICATION OF FRENCH DOMESTIC LAW, AND NOT OFFICIALLY AN ISSUE OF FOREIGN POLICY, IT MAY BE THAT MONACO (AND FRANCE) WOULD HAVE NO RESERVATIONS OVER AN NPW VISIT TO MONACO, AND GOF MIGHT BE WILLING TO HELP US DISCRETELY BY QUIETLY INTERPOSING NO OBJECTION. THE SHIP WOULD ANCHOR IN TERRITORIAL WATERS OF MONACO, ABOUT 2 MILES OFFSHORE; THEREFORE WE WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE ANY NEW LEGAL ISSUE TO BE RAISED.

4. WHILE THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO OBTAIN A PORT SUITABLE FOR VISIT BY NIMITZ, IT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE FOR NAVY TO MAKE ONE INITIAL NPW VISIT WITH A CRUISER IF, IN YOUR VIEW, IT WOULD BE A NECESSARY STEPPING STONE TO A SUBSEQUENT NIMITZ VISIT (HOPEFULLY, BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT TASK GROUP DEPLOYMENT IN JUNE 1978). YOUR ADVICE ON THE MERITS OF RAISING ISSUE OF NPW ACCESS TO MONACO, INCLUDING TIMING AND SHIP TYPE, IS REQUESTED SOONEST SO THAT NAVY CAN MAKE FIRM PLANS. CHRISTOPHER

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